The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University • Friday October 16, 2015 • Volume LX No. 9 • Since 1965

Students Run to Help Make Wishes Come True

By Rafal Matuszczak
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, Oct. 11th as a conclusion of the Family Fall Festival at the University campus, Saint Leo hosted a charity event. About 50 people finished a 5K long race to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Similarly to last year's Breast Cancer Awareness 5K walk/race, this fall, Saint Leo University hosted Walk for Wishes 5K. The event was organized by the Student Government Union, the Campus Activities Board, and Saint Leo Athletics.

About 50 people, including students and their families as well as the local community, had decided to take part in the event. Everybody who wanted to participate in the race had to pay a fee of 5 dollars. Nevertheless, all the money that was collected during the event will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation. As a reward for the donation, each participant received a dry-fit T-shirt, water bottle, bag, and Eos lip balm.

"Each year our main focus is to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation, and we have already granted a few wishes here at Saint Leo," said the Assistant Athletic Director, Erin Mykleby who was a participant of the race as well. "Last year SGU and CAB hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K. This year, Saint Leo Athletics and CAB decided to unify and support one organization together," added Mykleby.

The race started at the Student Community Center Bowl at 11:30 a.m., and the course was lead through the university's campus. The participants were provided with water on the course as well as refreshments at the finish line.

Since the main goal of the event was not competition but donating money to the Make a Wish, many people walked the course. Nevertheless, the event's organizers had decided to reward the top three finishers with medals. The top runners, Rafael Lohner, Joseph Carney, and Madison Ozog, crossed the finish line respectively.

"It was a really nice course, and a great opportunity to see the Saint Leo campus again. It looks great, and I had a lot of fun during the race," said a former Saint Leo Cross Country team member and the winner of the race, Rafael Lohner.

"What I love about the event is that I can help somebody else while doing what I like. I love running, and I am happy that I have the opportunity to help the Make a Wish Foundation through this sport. In my opinion, the foundation does a lot of good work, so it is enjoyable to support the organization," added Rafael.

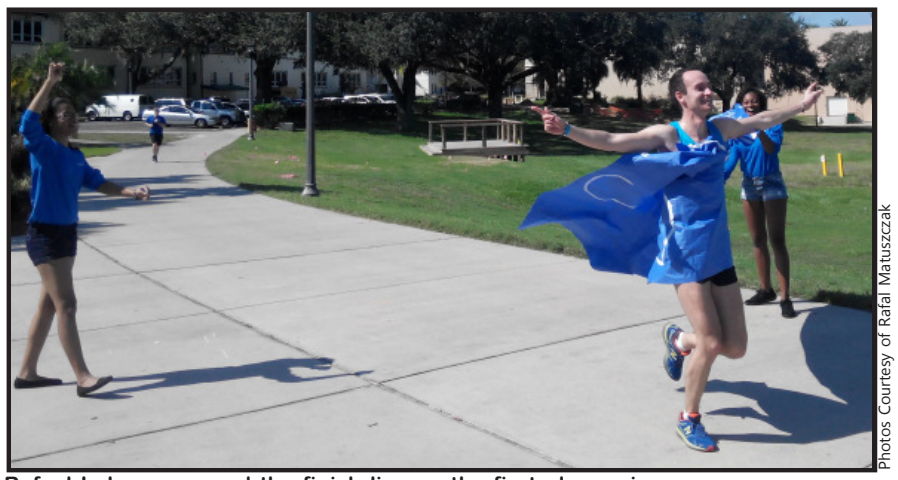
Not only had the participants of the race supported the Make a Wish last Sunday. In fact, many volunteers who had decided to sacrifice their time that morning had an impact on the event. The volunteers helped with the registration process as well as with organization during the race. They would give the runners water during the race, and provide them with directions on the course.

The race gathered many runners. The participants included students and faculty as well as people from outside the university.

All the support for the Make a Wish Foundation will allow the organization to grant another wish to a child who has a life-threating medical condition. Saint Leo has been supporting the organization since 2003 when the NCAA Division II and the Make a Wish Foundation alliance was established. By organizing events like the Walk for Wishes 5K, Saint Leo continues to help the foundation sponsor children's wishes.

Everybody who could not take part in the race last Sunday will have another opportunity to run with others on Oct.17th during the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival and Run. The event includes 1-mile as well as 5-mile run. Additionally, the runners might take part in a team competition or a runner-dog race.

The event is not associated with the Make a Wish Foundation. Nevertheless, it is an opportunity from everybody in the local community to run with each other. Therefore, everybody who missed the race organized by Saint Leo University will have another chance to compete. The races will start at 8 a.m. and 8:10 a.m.



Photos Courtesy of Rafal Matuszczak

Rafael Lohner crossed the finish line as the first place winner.

Correction

In the October 9th issue, in the "What Does Saint Leo's President Plan for the School?" article, we had misspelled Dr. Nastanski's name. We apologize for this mistake and hope to prevent further errors in the future.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

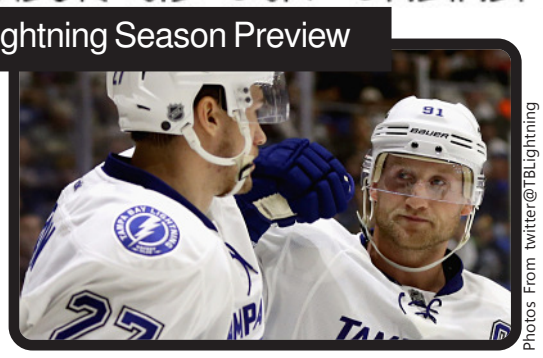
Halloween Horror Nights

Photo Courtesy of Jonah Robertson

NASA Funding Editorial

Photo from Nasa.gov

Lightning Season Preview



Photos From twitter@TBLightning

Editorial

Does America Want "Deez Nuts"?

By Jordan Cardenas
Contributing Writer

When George Washington rallied thousands of soldiers together, he dreamed of building a country of true freedom. He sought independence from Great Britain and for citizens to seek their rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But never would America's Founding Fathers dream of their people choosing a leader solely based off of a joke from the internet.

With the 2016 presidential election coming closer each day, voters across the country are watching and deciding on who could possibly fit best to run America from a number of candidate choices. But in late-July 2015, a strange phenomenon occurred when an independent candidate named "Deez Nuts" began to appear prominently in the polls, earning up to 9 percent of the popular vote in North Carolina.

The phrase blossomed from social media outlets in early 2015, and continued to explode with popularity once voters saw the name and placed their votes. According to Rolling Stone, "Deez Nuts" is actually a 15 year old boy from Iowa named Brady C. Olson, who filed a statement for candidacy as a joke as well as in protest of other candidates such as Donald Trump, Hilary Clinton, and Jeb Bush.

"People are tired of having a two party system, which isn't a very good match-making system," said Michael Lacario, sophomore Ecology major. "They don't like either candidate and [the candidates are] not talking about the real issues people care about."

Oddly enough, "Deez Nuts" is by no means the only strange candidate of this year's elections. Along with "Deez Nuts" is democratic candidate Limberbutt McCubbins—a cat from Louisville, Kentucky—according to CBS News. Both may be unable to be actually elected, but can still be voted for. Other strange candidates also include Vermin Supreme, a strange man who is commonly seen wearing a boot on his head and has been running for president since 2004. According to CNN, Supreme has made a number of wild claims for his presidency, such as promising every American a pony upon his election, requiring regulation of mandatory tooth brushing and preparation of the zombie apocalypse, and starting full funding of time travel research.

"I think there's maybe two reasons [why people voted for Deez Nuts]: One, the people responding to the poll didn't know that much about the candidates and so they were willing to vote for someone who is a joke name," said Dr. Frank Orlando, Political Science Instructor. "Or they knew the candidates, they were disaffected, they didn't like the candidates, and because of that they kind of wanted to stick it to the politicians running."

While "Deez Nuts" lives as both a form of protest and a joke that unexpectedly caught on throughout the country, whether that joke is harmless or actually affects the politics of America's elections by a large degree isn't certain and up for debate among voters across the states.

"People need to really focus on who they're going to vote for because it's going to be whoever the next president of the United States is going to be," said Emily Sheputis, senior Biology major. "Do your research, see who you really want to vote for and go out there and vote."

Still, others believe the jokes and protests are effective, leading to some interesting events in the serious world of American politics.

"I think a vote for 'Deez Nuts' is a vote for change in our political system," said Lacario. "We're tired of elections being a popularity contest and who garners the most advertising money."

Photo From @kolydka

One part of Vermin Supreme's political platform is to invent time travel to prevent the Holocaust.

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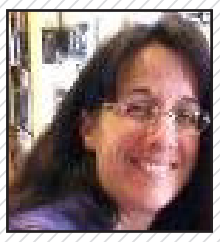

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Campus News

Emergency Blue Lights Results Map

Emergency Blue Lights: How They Can Help

By Ce'Darius Danforth
Contributing Writer

There are twenty-nine emergency blue light call boxes on Saint Leo University's campus, but how many people actually know about them or even know where they are?

Despite the twenty-four-hours-a-day seven-days-a-week campus security officers who travel on foot, golf carts, and even on mountain bikes, campus safety cannot be notified about every incident, but the emergency blue light call boxes can help control these incidents.

Some school campuses in America have blue light call boxes that connect to their local police stations, but the blue light call boxes on Saint Leo University's campus connect to the emergency phone in campus security's office which is on watch 24/7. Still, some of Saint Leo's students know the call boxes exist on campus, but their knowledge of them is minimal.

"I knew about the emergency blue lights; I just didn't know it was that many," said Sophomore Jason Kendricks. "They should just get more in order to be more cautious because the nearest one between where I usually park and my apartment is by my apartment."

When it comes to actual emergencies there have only been four since Mr. Mark Nash, campus safety Sargent of administration has been working here, but many assistance calls. Campus security checks and maintain these call boxes once every week.

Some students know about the call boxes and where some are, but wish there were more. "I knew about the emergency blue lights," said Freshman Ekaila Lindquist, "I just hate that between my walk to campus from my residence Marmion and Snyder on the hill it's just one. At least one [is] obvious."

Adding a couple more emergency blue light call boxes and making them more evident as to where they are can help eliminate the struggle to get to the nearest one. However, not all students attending Saint Leo University are aware of them.

"I've never heard about any emergency blue lights," according to Sophomore Christian Moore.

As for now, campus safety plans on keeping and maintaining the emergency blue light call boxes.

Blue Lights Contest Winners

The contest winners for identifying all of the blue light emergency call boxes on campus are:

Erika Ramirez
and
Maria Cortes

The winners should go to the Newspaper Office in the SAB 106 between 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Monday - Friday to collect their prizes, courtesy of The Lions' Pride and The Lions' Lair.

Science

Let's Talk About Water with Dr. Altfeld

By Thavail England
Contributing Writer

Dr. Laura Altfeld of Saint Leo University received an NSA grant to fund the project, "Let's Talk About Water"; she hopes to get the conversation started about the water issues facing the community.

Altfeld, from the Department of Mathematics and Science, recently received the grant from the non-profit organization CUAHSI funded by the NSF (National Science Foundation). The CUAHSI (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Agencies), according to their website, is a research organization that represents over 100 universities and with the funding of the NSF helps to develop infrastructure and services that are put towards water advancement in the United States.

Saint Leo University was one of twelve schools that were awarded the grant. This grant is given yearly to these schools to host a documentary about water issues.

Altfeld revealed the reason she the applied for the grant saying, "When I saw the grant I thought that this was perfect for us because the Rebus issue just came out and the theme of the Rebus issue was water and I thought that this was another cool water event that we could have this year," said Altfeld.

Rebus is a new scholarly magazine published by The School of Arts and Sciences this past month. Altfeld plans to do a couple of different things with the money.

"[This allows] the University to host a film event and put together a panel of experts that will watch the film with the audience members and then after the film the panel can lead discussions and answer questions that are raised by the audience" said Altfeld.

Altfeld plans to host the film "For Love of Water" on Oct.17, in the boardrooms. A diverse panel of judges from members of the US Geologic survey to members of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, to our very own Professors will be assembled to discuss these issues.

"I'm really hoping that we get a nice big crowd, to come and ask good questions of the panelists" said Altfeld.

She expects to bring attention to the difficult water issues in the U.S and around the world and raise questions as well as evoke ideas. Altfeld hopes as a community to come up with ideas to solve some of the country's difficult water issues.

Photos Courtesy of Thavail England

After teaching for over six years at Wilson College, Dr. Altfeld is becoming a great addition to the Science Department.

Will We Have Pool Parties on Mars?

By Dakota Schwalbach
Distribution Manager

It has long been suspected that humans are the only life forms in the universe. With recent discoveries as to how large our universe actually is, many people have begun disagreeing with this theory.

On September 28, 2015 NASA reported the discovery of flowing bodies of water on the surface of Mars. NASA believes that this discovery has the potential to prove the existence of a habitable environment on the surface of Mars. According to NASA however; the Mars rover is unable to approach and test the discovered water due to the possibility of contaminating the water with Earth-borne or other dangerous bacteria.

The fear of contaminating the water stems from a treaty written by the United Nations in 1967. This treaty states that all space exploration will be conducted in such a way to avoid any possible contamination by Earth life. There is a way around the UNs treaty however, the Mars rover would need to be sterilized to a higher degree.

2020 will mark the next Mars based mission for NASA with a rover said to be sterilized to the same level as Curiosity. This would mean that the next rover will be unable to reach the water sources either, unless plans change between now and five years down the road.

What does this discovery mean for the human race? Are we still alone? Is there the possibility of another race of intelligible life somewhere among the stars?

There are many arguments that could come into consideration over this topic, both in favor and against the possibility of other species in the universe that we as humans have not encountered yet. If it is considered that there are known bacteria in space; and more importantly the known and widely accepted theory of evolution, is it much of a stretch to believe in the existence of another form of life?

As humans, we seem to take the fact that we are at the top of the food chain for granted. What if that were to change? Would we still be so careless and arrogant? Or would the change in our status provide a much needed change in perspective.

Having no solid evidence of any possibilities, positive or negative, the whole situation becomes a waiting game. It may be a long while before the waters of Mars become a possibility of exploration, but all that means is that the human race will have another goal set in its future to achieve and progress with.

That leads to a final thought. Are we the only ones striving for answers in this huge universe?

Photo from Twitter @NatGeo

A lot of the water found on Mars is suspected to be flowing in large craters on the surface of the planet

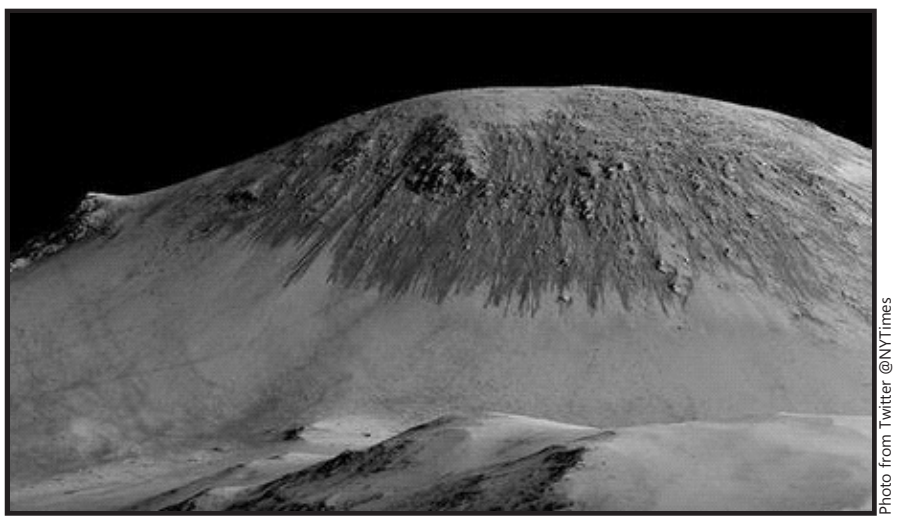

Photo from Twitter @NYTimes

The darker streaks on the mountains of Mars are thought to be evidence of water existing.

Campus News

A Weekend of Family Fun at Saint Leo University

By Thavail England
Contributing Writer

Saint Leo University held it's annual Fall Family Festival on Saturday, Oct 10. Members from the surrounding communities came to join in on the fun with their friends and families.

The Fair was one of the many events that took place during the Fall Family Festival weekend. The fair commenced at 11am with breakfast being served at the cafeteria. Families from near and far came to visit and spend time together. Upon arrival they registered at the Student Activities Building, after they registered they were given goodies and tokens as a thank you from the Saint Leo Community.

Tents were put up in the Bowl and many different stations were set up. There was an assortment of rides, and different opportunities for children of all ages: from face painting, to balloon animals, to winning prizes for shooting down bottles. A slide was put up along with a swinging ride and more.

"We loved that they had something for everyone," said one of the many families in attendance.

The Chair-o-Planes ride provided attendees of the fair an easy way to cool off as they flew around in the breeze.

There were many booths put up, for Sororities, Campus Organizations and Funnel cakes. Each booth had different activities going on, members of different sororities had their booths set up to engage and interact with the families. There were booths that served refreshments to combat the humidity, and there were booths that made balloon animals for children from an assortment of sharks to giraffes. The children seemed to really enjoy the various fair activities. One little girl in particular spoke about how she enjoyed going on all the rides and getting her face painted at one of the booths. She said that she especially enjoyed the slide and winning stuffed animal prizes from one of the booths. Many people also seemed to enjoy the slide, and playing the shooting games, even if many did not win any prizes. All members of the families from various age groups seemed to have been enjoying the fair and getting to spend time together with their family on a nice fall day. The food also played a big part in the overall enjoyment of the day. People loved the various options that were provided by the cafeteria and the desserts that they had. This year's Fall Family Fair was a total success and it succeeded in proving to be a fun filled day for all participants.

Guests were able to play Bumper Balls in the inflatable gerbil balls in the kiddie pool and experience how hard it is to walk on water.

Most jungle gyms are odd structures of metal bars for people to climb about, but the one set up at teh Fall Family Festival was bright, bouncy, and a lot safer to fall in.

Many people were able to brave their fear of heights to enjoy a quick trip down this fun tri-colored plastic mountain.

Photos courtesy of Rikki Hussey

Arts & Entertainment

Mars's Greatest Pirate, Botonist and Survivor

By Annie Hays
Layout Editor
Arts & Entertainment Editor

How does one man survive on an uninhabited planet where nothing grows naturally and oxygen can only be produced inside a space bunker? As Mark Watney (Matt Damon) shows, snark and science are the only ways to survive on Mars in director Ridley Scott's movie "The Martian."

The movie begins with Watney and his crew of Martian explorers evacuating their base during a powerful storm. Watney is impaled with a cable, and he is lost in the storm. Commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain) must abandon him to save the crew. The next day, Watney wakes up and has to begin the seemingly insurmountable task of providing food and water for himself, making contact with Earth, and finding a way to the base for the next mission due to arrive in four years.

Meanwhile on Earth, it does not take long for satellite images to show that things are inexplicably moving around the base. Watney and NASA scientists are able to make contact with each other first by moving a robotic camera, then through the Internet. At first, NASA Director Teddy Sanders (Jeff Daniels) is hesitant to send a rescue mission for one man. The rest of Watney's crew is still in space, but they cannot turn their space station around and go back to get him.

After much convincing from Sanders's top aides: Annie Montrose (Kristen Wiig) the NASA Spokeswoman, and Vincent Kapoor (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and Mitch Henderson (Sean Bean) the mission directors, Sanders decides to send a rescue mission. It then becomes a race against time to save Watney before he runs out of food and supplies or Commander Lewis's Disco music drives him insane.

The greatest strength of this movie is the combination of accessible yet intelligent science behind Watney's survival skills and the rescue attempt coupled with all the characters' sass and dry humor. Because Watney is able to grow crops on Mars, he is officially a colonizer of Mars. But when he has to leave the base, he is legally subject to Maritime law, and since he is not allowed to be in "international waters" outside of the base, he is also a pirate and wants to be referred to as Blonde Beard.

While the stories on Earth and the space station are shot using traditional camera styles, all the scenes on Mars are generally shot with various cameras on Watney's space suit and those set up around the base. Watney talks to the cameras to tell his story like a blog or YouTube channel. He talks through his problems and solutions like a Do-It-Yourself survival video or one-man TV survival show such as "Survivor Man."

Photo From twitter@MartianMovie

Imagine having to put on a space suit just to walk outside. Mark Watney had to do this while he was stuck on Mars for over 400 days,or sols.

The graphics used to create the Martian landscape and space station are flawless. If Mars truly does look like the CGI landscapes in the movie, then it is a gorgeous (not to mention unforgiving) place to visit.

The soundtrack consists of Commander Lewis's Disco collection because that is the only music left at Watney's base. He consistently makes fun of Lewis's horrible taste in music, but the upbeat dance tracks help to lighten the mood as Watney is constantly faced with life-or-death survival challenges.

"The Martian" may be a sci-fi thriller, but its intelligent use of science, humor, human determination, and creative camera styles make it a great movie for just about anyone. This movie gets a 5/5, even from a non-fan of sci-fi.

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Arts & Entertainment

A Tale Exceeding Expectations

By Austin Chiavaroli
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Austin Chiavaroli

Thanks to its colorful and fun characters, "Undertale" is a game for everyone.

Players of all kinds of games most likely never think about the monsters they face and how they feel when their life is brutally ended with the slice of a sword or shot of a gun. In Toby Fox's game, "Undertale," you can meet monsters of all kinds and choose whether or not to end their lives or spare them instead. "Undertale" is released exclusively for PC on the Steam digital distribution platform, or a couple other sites and is published by the creator and developer of the game Toby Fox.

The story of the game takes place underground where the humans of Earth, after a war, have magically sealed the monsters. A child (the player) falls into the pit and discovers underground ruins where he/she is greeted by a flower named Flowey. After a brief interaction with Flowey, the player is then greeted by a motherly goat monster called Toriel. While helping the child through the ruins, Toriel teaches him/her how the world of monsters works and warns the player not to leave the ruins.

After welcoming the player into her home, she begins to become attached to him/her. She tells the player about herself, begins to get an educational system set up for the player, and begins to treat him/ her more like her own child. However, when the player asks when he/she can go home, Toriel mysteriously leaves. The player soon finds that she is going to destroy the only way out of the ruins to keep them safe from the monsters outside. The player must battle Toriel and defeat her, in some way, to leave. The player can then walk through the door to the rest of the underground land of monsters to begin his journey.

The battle system in the game is creative in that with every battle the player is put into he/she have four options. The player can fight the monster head on and destroy them, he/ she can act and find a unique way, such as talking or singing, to calm the monster down and give up on fighting. When the player chooses act and figures out how to calm the monster down the monsters name will, normally, turn yellow. This yellow indications gives the player the option of mercy to spare the monster. The player can often times be able to run away from the monster by going straight to the mercy option and choosing flee. The final option the player can choose is the item option where player can heal with food items and change gear in the middle of battle.

When any of these options are chosen an attack from the monster will occur. The player will have to move his/her soul, represented as a red heart, around and dodge the specific attacks from the monster. These attacks are quick paced, making the player have to react fast in order to not be damaged. These attacks will also happen after the player uses an item, making it difficult to keep health.

The backdrops of the game and the pixelated characters have a retro 8-bit feel. There is a small spectrum of colors for each room making the game feel like something out of classic 1980's video games.

This game is similar to the Earthbound/ Mother series, with a massive amount of comedy and emotional moments. Based on the storyline, art, and presentation as a whole, "Undertale" has many of the characteristics of Earthbound/ Mother spread throughout it.

The game's soundtrack is phenomenal as the tracks are mostly chiptune (giving off an 8-bit tune) mixed with actual instruments. There are some beautiful tracks played at certain scenes that make the scenes stick out. The soundtrack can be bought for $10 on the websites Bandcamp and Steam. It can also be bought in a bundle with the game for around $18.

There are multiple endings that the player can achieve when he/she beats the game. If players try to spare monsters, but fight and destroy a few along the way, he/she will get the Neutral Ending. If the player completely fights and destroys every monster he/she faces, he/ she will get the Genocide Ending. If the player decides to spare or flee every monster he/ she faces along his/her journey and befriends the characters he/ she meets along the way, he/ she will get the Pacifist/"True" Ending. The ending depends on the player's play style which can be either a good thing or a bad thing.

"Undertale" is an indie game that started out as a Kickstarter, which is a site to give money towards an idea, with only a demo for people to play. After a lot of people played the demo, they were so intrigued and satisfied with the demo that they donated to the Kickstarter. The original amount the creator was hoping to be donated was $5,000 and was instead surprised to have gotten over $50,000 donated. With the amount of content and care that is seen throughout this game, it shows just how much dedication the developer put into the game.

The game does have its flaws, as some of the scenes have flashing lights that can be harmful to epileptics. Another issue is that with the game being only being $10, the content in it makes it feel underpriced.

"Undertale" is a unique story that shows how you can have a good game with throw-back graphics and sounds. With likable characters and an abundance of possible outcomes, this game sets a good example for indie games and hopefully will become an iconic one. "Undertale" gets a rating of 4.9/5.

Sports

Cross Country Runners of the Week

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

Senior Valentin Lenz and sophomore Colett Rampf earned Sunshine State Conference Men's and Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week for their performances at the Disney Classic.

This is Rampf's eighth Runner of the Week for her career, and fourth of this season. Her second place finish in the Disney Classic 5K race was only 2.9 seconds behind winner Sophia Meehan of Johns Hopkins University, with a time of 17:44.40, which was good enough to help the women's team finish third overall as a team. This time also set a record as the fastest true 5K race in Saint Leo history.

Lenz now has his second Runner of the Week award, his first since Oct. 15, 2012, when he was a freshman. Finishing the Disney Classic 8K race in 25:12.80, Lenz's performance was good enough for fourth overall, leading the men's team to a third place finish in the event. Lenz's run was his second best race time at that distance, and was also slotted in as the fifth best run in Saint Leo's men's history.

Both teams are off this week, to practice for the 2015 Sunshine State Conference Championships that occur Saturday, Oct. 24, at Holloway Park in Lakeland, Fla.

Photos From @saintleoxctrack

Saint Leo women are ranked #21in the South Region, while the men are currently #2 in the South Region, meaning both would qualify for the national championships so long as they maintain their positions

Scores This Week

M Cross Country

10/10: 3rd of 25 teams Disney Cross Country Classic

@Celebration, Fla.

W Cross Country

10/10: 3rd of 34 teams Disney Cross Country Classic

@Celebration, Fla.

M Soccer

10/7: L 2-1 Vs #4 Palm Beach Atl.

10/10: W 1-0 Vs Nova Southeastern

W Soccer

10/7: W 2-1 @ Palm Beach Atl.

W Volleyball

10/9: W 3-3 Vs Nova Southeastern

10/10: W 3-0 Vs. Lynn

Mercifully, it's Over: Rays 2015

By Matt Vandenburgh
Sports Editor

As the playoffs turn to the championship series for each league, enough time has passed to reflect on the rough season had by the Tampa Bay Rays. Even though the Rays finished 80-82 on the season, fourth in the American League Eastern Division, the team did prove they were undervalued at the beginning; as many industry experts, as well as The Lion's Pride itself, projected 90-plus losses for the Rays this year.

The Rays were in first place in late June, with an outstanding starting rotation, and a bullpen that had the second lowest earned run average in the American League. The offense struggled, as expected, but the batters had done enough to keep the team on top of the Eastern division despite James Loney, Daniel Nava and Tim Beckham going down with injuries.

Unfortunately, things began to fall apart. The same bullpen that maintained the low ERA started to crumble under the weight of the workload of the season. The back end starters, Matt Moore specifically, did not perform up to expectations when returning from injuries. The offense dried up, making any pitching performance that resulted in more than three runs allowed was a loss. All of this combined to cause a free fall that the Rays could not escape from.

That is not to say there is no hope for next year though. The Rays retain a young core of very talented starting pitchers, including 27-year-old ace Chris Archer, who lead the team with 252 strikeouts and a 3.23 ERA. 25-year-old Jake Odorizzi also had a superb season, with a 3.35 ERA, good for 8th in the American League. Along with making the All-Star game, closer Brad Boxberger led the American League with 41 saves.

The batting is, and will continue to be, the central problem. Other than third baseman Evan Longoria, there are not many batters that inspire fans. Logan Forsythe led the team with a .281 batting average, which means he was the only Tampa batter that finished in the top-30 of American League batters. Longoria finished top of the team with 73 RBI, which was only good enough to tie for 38th in the league.

It won't take much to fix the Rays. If they are able to acquire a batter to protect Longoria in the lineup, his stats will rise, giving them a better offense overall. They have more than enough starting pitching, so trading one for that bat would not be a bad idea. All things considered, if the Rays are cautiously aggressive with their offseason moves, a push for the 2016 postseason is not out of the realm of possibilities.

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